

4 March 2024

Ms Catherine Wood
Assistant Coroner for Suffolk

Dear Ms Wood,

Re: Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths Report in respect of Nuel-Junior Dzernjo

I write in response to your regulation 28 report dated 18 December 2023 regarding the very sad death of Nuel-Junior Dzernjo. I would like to express my sincere condolences to Nuel-Junior's family.

We have reflected on the circumstances surrounding Nuel-Junior's death and the concerns raised in your report. We note your concerns about a lack of clear guidance on whether intravenous aciclovir should have been prescribed in this case.

NICE have not published a guideline on managing chickenpox. We are not asked to develop guidance on all conditions and our recommendations do not cover all clinical circumstances.

There is a Clinical Knowledge Summary (CKS) published on our website on [chickenpox](#), including a section on the management of chickenpox in people who are [immunocompromised](#). The CKS are developed by an external company called Agilio Software and are designed to summarise the evidence on the treatment of specific health conditions. They use a variety of sources and may include NICE guidance, if there is any that is relevant, but they use many other sources too. We publish them on our website as a source of advice and information for health professionals working in primary care, but they do not constitute NICE guidance.

Following receipt of your report, senior clinical advisors within the patient safety team here at NICE have reviewed the concerns raised. Although the content is not published by NICE directly, we believe that the relevant recommendation in the CKS is clear:

'If complications are not suspected:

- Seek immediate specialist advice to confirm the diagnosis of chickenpox and determine whether immediate admission is required to administer intravenous aciclovir. ‘

As part of this process, we have shared this report with Agilio Software for their awareness, however, if further clarification is required on the content of the CKS topic, Agilio software can be contacted [directly](#).

Finally, as you will be aware, NICE is not the only organisation that produces clinical guidelines, and we would also expect that there are local policies and care pathways that are followed in individual hospital trusts.

I hope this response has helped outline our role and the guidance that exists in this topic area.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Executive